Alfonso Gamino Superintendent

Laura A. Gonzalez Assistant Superintendent



### Board of Trustees

Joe Hallmeyer
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February 7, 2019

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

# **Contact Information**

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Request for Waiver

Docket 02-6

Form 471 Number:

161029667 (May 24, 2016)

BEN

16067293

FRN Number:

1699077705

Funding Year:

2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request a waiver to extend the deadline to re-submit a BEAR Form 472s for funding year 2016, FRN 1699077705.

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# 1. District Background

Woodlake Unified School District is a small rural district in Tulare County (California) serving communities from Woodlake, Three Rivers and Seville. The average enrollment is 2100 students.

## 2. Situation background

Woodlake Unified School District submitted form 471 on May 24, 2016, for funding year 2016 Category 1 with an amount requested of \$298,808.57. USAC issued a FCDL (Funding Commitment Decision Letter) on January 27, 2017 with the approved amount of \$176,786.92 and zero amount denied. This created a confusion since the amount denied was zero.

USAC directed our district to file an appeal. The appeal was submitted on March 24, 2017 and granted in our favor on November 1, 2017. (Appeal #40854). A new RFCDL (Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter) was issued by USAC. At that time, the window to submit invoices by SPI method had expired. After contacting USAC (Case# 205019), they suggested that we submit the invoices with BEAR method instead of SPI. After following USAC's instructions for filling out forms 500 and 498 (#443023997) on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Form 472 BEAR invoice was submitted.

On January 19, 2018 the Form 472 BEAR (#2753146) was cancelled due to the invoice method used which was SPI instead of BEAR. After submitting the change, another Form 472 BEAR form (#2774254) was submitted on February 13, 2018.

On February 15, 2018, we were notified that it was again cancelled due to the invoice method used (which was SPI instead of BEAR). This created more confusion because the date used by USAC was incorrect (January 13, 2018 instead of February 13, 2018) and at that time the method of payment was BEAR. On March 24, 2018, we received an email from Patrick Pauls (Case Management Invoicing Associate) with Case #22-962451 explained:

"Funds have been disbursed for FRN: 1699077705 in the amount of \$149,607.22. Disbursed funds must be returned to USAC before the mode change request can be processed"

It was not clearly explained by SPECTRUM that they credited us our account in December 2018. We thought that USAC was going to refund the money to them. Meanwhile Charter (Spectrum) was trying to resolve the issue from November 2, 2017 to January 26, 2018 (see exhibit named "email from spectrum.pdf")

On July 9, 2018 a RFCDL (Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter) was received with a revised commitment amount of \$298,808.57. Upon receiving this letter, we forwarded it to Charter (Spectrum) for them to invoice USAC since the method of payment was cancelled.



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On November 28, 2018 (Case # 253998) USAC suggested to call them instead of using the Portal. We called them on December 4, 2018 (Case # 257176) and we asked for directions on how to receive the money. At that time, the case was escalated. We contacted them on January 16, 2019 and on February 4, 2019, USAC responded with an explanation that an appeal with FCC should be submitted.

### 3. Conclusion

This is an urgent matter for us, it's been going on for two years and we want to work to find a resolution. For that reason, we respectfully request a waiver to extend the deadline to re-submit a BEAR Form 472s for funding year 2016, FRN 1699077705.

Cordially

Laura Gonzalez

2.7.19

Francesc Lopez

2/4/2019